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Honorable J. W. Fulbright, Chairman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Senator Fulbright:

By letter dated 13 August 1959 you requested our views on S. 2188, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Citizens' Council for Advocacy of Freedom.

We are in agreement with certain of the findings in the bill. We, too, recognize that government and private elements must cooperate in their efforts in this field and in this sense we are in favor of the spirit behind this proposal. There is in existence, however, considerable machinery for "coordinating approved programs and policies at all levels of government" - the National Security Council, the Operations Coordinating Board, and many interdepartmental committees. They and the departments they represent, seek and employ the advice of specialists in both the substance and techniques of information activity.

The Senate Government Operations Committee's Subcommittee on National Policy Machinery presumably is inquiring into the adequacy and effectiveness of this machinery. In this connection it must be remembered that policies and programs of an ideological nature are only one aspect of our contest with the Communist challenge; they require coordination with our diplomatic, economic, and military policies.

In view of the existence of the machinery which I have described and which will be discussed by the Department of State and the United States Information Agency in their reports on this bill, it is my opinion that the establishment of an additional advisory group of the type proposed in S. 2188 is unnecessary at this time. I shall not, therefore, include in this report

comments on the specific provisions of this bill except to note two points.

First, I have serious reservations as to the advisability of including a representative of this Agency on the Council. CIA's formal participation could be interpreted as an interference with the stated aims of the Council and brand it as part of the U.S. intelligence effort.

The second point relates to the authority which would be granted by the Council by section 6 (b) of the bill. Section 6 (b) could be interpreted so as to give the Council authority to make the final determination on what information it requires in order to carry out its functions under the act without regard for other factors which might bear on the releasability of the information by the executive departments concerned.

For the reasons stated, I would not favor enactment of S. 2188.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that it has no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely,

C. P. Cabell
General, USAF
Acting Director